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THE ROYAL ROAD
TO
EMANCIPATION.
ALL WAGE SLAVES
MAY START NOW.

By E. L. PRATT.



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THE ROYAL ROAD TO EMANCIPATION.

ALL WAGE SLAVES MAY START NOW.

The miserable social and economic conditions of the working classes have been the subject of innumerable books, articles, lectures and sermons in all ages. "How the poor live," is a favourite theme of sensational writers. We know it only too well. Sometimes we feel that we should like to see some attempt made to explain *Why* the poor live. But it is not the purpose of this pamphlet to add another to the gruesome pictures of the workers' poverty. We are not going to carry coals to Newcastle. But we do want to say a word about the *cause* of that poverty, and also to present a plan for its *cure*.

An Insane System.

The cause of the sufferings and wretchedness of the workers, then, is to be found in the system by which labour is exploited by capitalists and landowners, and awarded only a bare fraction of the wealth it produces. Labour produces *all* the commodities and comforts of existence. Without the continuous labour of the many all the mechanism of daily life would come to pieces. Yet, in spite of this fact, the great mass of the men and women whose toil produces food, clothing, and shelter for all (besides the luxuries of the few) receive only just so much as will enable them to "go on with the job". The rest is forcibly taken from them by a mere handful

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of idlers, who have been cunning and powerful enough to seize the sources of supply. It is the labour of the workers that brings all the food to market. Yet they are the worst fed. It is the labour of the workers that provides every stitch of human clothing. Yet they are the worst clad. It is the labour of the workers that builds all the houses. Yet oftentimes many of them have not where to lay their heads. This is not only unfair; it is insane. Religion condemns such a system. Nature rebels against it. Morality frowns on it. Logic laughs at it. Honesty repudiates it, and commonsense kicks it out of court. Yet the workers put up with it. What are we going to do about it?

Below the Salt.

Education has done something to open the eyes of the masses to the cause of this gross injustice. Their Trade Unions have gone a little way (a very little way) towards grappling with the evil thing. But after every effort has been made it still remains a fact that the wage earners, who comprise 75 per cent of the population of the world, possess only about one fourth of the wealth they create. The bulk of it is extorted from them in the form of rent, profits, interest and usury. And so it comes about that the party which as regards numbers is in a gigantic majority, is compelled to sit at the foot of the table of life, and accept the merest scraps of the good things with which their labour (and their labour alone) has loaded the board.

Secret of the Failure.

The whole secret of the failure to alter this inhuman system lies in the defectiveness of the workers' organisations. They will never succeed till they have tried something different. Only by a thorough re-or-

ganisation on the lines of Class, and not of trade or section, and by a world-wide unity of action instead of the present method of isolated strikes, can power ever be acquired and economic liberty realised.

The Remedy.

The Industrial Workers of the world is the only organisation through which the wage-slaves can achieve their emancipation. The I.W.W. proposes to take up this question at the right end, and organise the workers on the *industrial* field, because it is on the *industrial* field they are exploited. Its immediate objects are to force the employers to raise wages, shorten hours, and improve conditions all round. Its *ultimate* object is so to weaken the power of the capitalist class that the workers, by reason of their solid Class Consciousness and perfect unity, will be able to step in and take over the entire machinery and products of industry, and to own them, run them and enjoy them with no man to say them nay.

Fundamental Principles of the I. W. W.

1. There are two socially antagonistic classes in the world:—
 - (a) The exploiting class.
 - (b) The exploited class.
2. A universal struggle exists between these two classes.
3. The struggle originates at the point of production.
4. The struggle must go on until the workers are in a position to abolish the wage system, and control production for themselves.
5. An injury to one worker is an injury to all workers.

Form of Organisation of the I. W. W.

1. All workers in one industry (building, for example) in (first) one Local; (second) one National, and (third) one International Industrial Union.
2. All workers in all kindred industrial unions (e.g. Engineering, metal workers, etc.,) organically linked up in one Industrial Departmental Administration.
3. All workers in all Departments connected in one General Executive Industrial Administration.
4. The membership of the I.W.W. constitutes the Supreme Directing Authority through the general referendum—that is, the referring of all questions of policy to the opinion and votes for the workers.

Methods of the I. W. W.

1. All members must at all times act in concert. For example:—In case of a strike in one factory every worker must go out, and leave the factory entirely. Furthermore, all workers in all industries throughout the jurisdiction of the I.W.W. must act as one against that factory.
2. All workers of all Industrial Unions and Departments may be called out on strike if need be.
3. The hours may be decreased without strike. Say it is decided to work eight hours only. The policy would be to stop work after the eight hours was up, whatever the bosses might say, *or do*.
4. The Opportune Strike. This means that workers would go on strike whenever it seemed that such action would take the capitalists at a special disadvantage. For instance:—when they had work that must be done immediately.

5. Final Universal Strike. All workers to remain within the industrial institutions, lock the employers out, commandeer the plant, and so give the parasites of Labour a chance of becoming useful members of society.

The Goal of the I. W. W.

By means of Industrial Organisation, the I.W.W. seeks to realise the historic mission of the Working Class, viz., the overthrow of Capitalism and all other forms of exploitation, the abolition of wage slavery on which the Class Struggle is founded, and the final emancipation of the workers from the tyranny of the idlers.

An Appeal to ALL Men and Women Workers.

The interest of the I.W.W. is the interest of all. By it we are striving to evolve a system of society which will make war impossible, enable the workers to enjoy the full fruits of their industry, and elevate the race to a higher level of intellectual and physical development than it has ever yet attained.

The I.W.W. means the combination of all for the benefit of each.

For further information regarding the I.W.W., and for explanatory literature on the new industrial movement, write to the General Secretary, I.W.W., 29 Theobald's Road, London, W.C. 1.

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